



**Peru State College**  
ENG 335 - Non-Western Literature  
Syllabus – Spring – 2012

Instructor: **Joshua E. Young**  
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Course Meets: M-W 9:30-10:45 AM / CATS 201

**Required Textbooks:**

One World of Literature; by Lim and Spencer  
In the Country of Men; by Hisham Matar  
Harp of Burma; by Michimo Takeyama  
Beka Lamb; by Zee Edgell  
Potiki; by Patricia Grace

**Course Description & Objectives**

Non-Western Literature is an examination of significant literary works of Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Latin America, and the Caribbean. This class introduces readers to what will be for many a rather new world of literature, material they might not otherwise have either occasion to encounter or the inclination to read. Students will discover the common themes and human interests that bind the drama, fiction, and poetry of the entire world. Through literary analysis, students will come to appreciate, moreover, what looks familiar often reveals significant differences; and these differences in turn make the similarities all the more striking. None of the conflicts presented in the literature in the course admits a simple solution, thus critical thinking and analysis will be required.

**Upon completion of this course you should be able to:**

1. Analyze the ways in which social, ethical, and gender issues are presented and dramatized in literature;
2. Speak and write skillfully about some of the most important literary works in the non-western tradition;
3. Identify universal themes in literature;
4. Situate a literary text in its historical and cultural context;
5. Recognize the major genres and literary forms appearing in non-western literature.

At the beginning of the course, we will discuss how these objectives fit into the College's and School's mission and goals.

The instructor reserves the right to modify any aspect of the course syllabus or content. Any modifications will be communicated to students in advance.

### **Expectations & Instructional Approach**

**Participation:** As this class will combine both lecture and discussion, students are expected both to attend every session and to take an active part in class—joining in discussions and raising questions. Discussion is one of the best ways to clarify your understandings and to test your conclusions. Open discussion always involves personal exposure, and thus the taking of risks: your ideas may not be the same as your fellow students' or even the instructor's. Yet as long as your points are honest and supportable, they will be respected. Questions, discussion, disagreement, and laughter are all encouraged!

**Quizzes and Literature Responses:** With the exception of the first week, class may begin with a short (five- to ten- minute) quiz on the readings for the day, at the instructor's discretion. Quizzes cannot be made up; if you miss a quiz due to absence or lateness, that grade will be regarded as a zero. Students will also complete various short in-class writing assignments during the semester, including short summaries and literature responses. (Point value: 10-20 pts. each)

**Essays:** This semester you will write at two short essays. In addition to being typed and double-spaced, essay length requirements will be given for each assignment. For most of the papers, you will work in groups with other class members to comment on their work and to have your work critiqued. These sessions will occur during class time. (Point value: 50 pts. each)

**Exams:** During the semester, you will have unit exams that cover literary elements and details from the reading selections. Advance notice of exam dates will be provided. (Point value: 100 pts. each)

**Late Work:** Excuses such as “crashed computers,” “lost flash drives,” or “empty printer ink cartridges” will not be accepted. It is suggested that all computer work be saved both on your computer's hard drive and again on disk or removable storage device. Grades for unexcused late work will be lowered at the rate of one-half a grade each day.

### **Assessment and Grading**

Course grades will be based on a percentage score of total points accumulated from all in-class work, assignments, exams, and essays. The maximum possible points for a semester are usually about 600.

**Grading Policy:**

A 90-100

B+ 87-89

B 80-86

C+ 77-79

C 70-76

D+ 67-69

D 60-66

F 59-0

**College's Incomplete Coursework Policy**

To designate a student's work in a course as incomplete at the end of a term, the instructor records the incomplete grade (I). Students may receive this grade only when serious illness, hardship, death in the immediate family, or military service during the semester in which they are registered prevents them from completing course requirements. In addition, to receive an incomplete, a student must have completed substantially all of the course's major requirements.

Unless extenuating circumstances dictate otherwise, students must initiate requests for an incomplete by filling out an Incomplete Grade Completion Contract, which requires the signature of the student, instructor, and Dean. The Incomplete Grade Completion contract cites the reason(s) for the incomplete and details the specific obligations the student must meet to change the incomplete to a letter grade. The date by which the student agrees to complete required work must appear in the contract. The Dean, the instructor, and the student receive signed copies of the Incomplete Grade Completion Contract. Even if the student does not attend Peru State College, all incomplete course work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester. Unless the appropriate Dean approves an extension and if the student does not fulfill contract obligations in the allotted time, the incomplete grade automatically becomes an F.

**College's Academic Integrity Policy**

The College expects all students to conduct themselves in a manner that supports an honest assessment of student learning outcomes and the assignment of grades that appropriately reflect student performance. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to understand and comply with instructions regarding the completion of assignments, exams, and other academic activities. At a minimum, students should assume that at each assessment opportunity they are expected to do their own original academic work and/or clearly acknowledge in an appropriate fashion the intellectual work of others, when such contributions are allowed. Students helping others to circumvent honest assessments of learning outcomes, or who fail to report instances of academic dishonesty, are also subject to the sanctions defined in this policy.

Instances of academic dishonesty may be discovered in a variety of ways. Faculty members who assign written work ordinarily check citations for accuracy, run data base and online checks, and/or may simply recognize familiar passages that are not cited. They may observe students in the act of cheating or may become aware of instances of cheating from the statements of others. All persons who observe or otherwise know

about instances of cheating are expected to report such instances to the proper instructor or Dean.

In order to promote academic integrity, the College subscribes to an electronic service to review papers for the appropriate citations and originality. Key elements of submitted papers are stored electronically in a limited access database and thus become a permanent part of the material to which future submissions are compared.

Submission of an application and continued enrollment signifies your permission for this use of your written work.

Should an occurrence of academic misconduct occur, the faculty member may assign a failing grade for the assignment or a failing grade for the course. Each incident of academic misconduct should be reported to the Dean and the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA). The VPAA may suspend for two semesters students found to be responsible for multiple instances of academic dishonesty. The reason for the suspension will be noted on the student's transcript.

A faculty member need present only basic evidence of academic dishonesty. There is no requirement for proof of intent. Students are responsible for understanding these tenets of academic honesty and integrity. Students may appeal penalties for academic dishonesty using the process established for grades appeals.

### **Title IX Compliance Notice**

Peru State College is an equal opportunity institution. PSC does not discriminate against any student, employee or applicant on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in employment and education opportunities, including but not limited to admission decisions. The College has designated an individual to coordinate the College's nondiscrimination efforts to comply with regulations implementing Title VI, VII, IX, and Section 504. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and practices may be directed to Eulanda Cade, Director of Human Resources, Title VI, VII, IX Compliance Coordinator, Peru State College, PO Box 10, Peru, NE 68421-0010, (402) 872-2230. Students requesting reasonable accommodation and tutoring services should contact the Center for Achievement and Transition Services (CATS).

### **Tentative Course Reading Schedule**

I will give a succeeding multi-week schedule during the week before mid-term break. Please keep in mind the following course outline is subject to change. I will announce any change in class, and you are responsible for noting those changes.

#### **WEEK ONE**

Mon. 1/9 - Introduction to Class/Literary Terms

Wed. 1/11 - OWL - Intro to Africa and the Middle East pp. 2-14

- "*Naema--Whereabouts Unknown*" by Mohammed Dib pp. 15-24

#### **WEEK TWO**

Mon. 1/16 – No Class. Read *Harp of Burma*

Wed. 1/18 - No Class. Read *Harp of Burma*

### WEEK THREE

Mon. 1/23 - *Harp of Burma* Quiz, In-class Activity

Wed. 1/25 – Discuss *Harp of Burma*.

### WEEK FOUR

Mon. 1/30 - A Country of Men - Chapters 1-3 pp. 1-40

Wed. 2/1 - A Country of Men - Chapters 4-6 pp.41-68

### WEEK FIVE

Mon. 2/6 - A Country of Men - Chapters 7-9 pp. 69-109

Wed. 2/8 - A Country of Men - Chapters 10-13 pp.110-149

### WEEK SIX

Mon. 2/13 - A Country of Men - Chapters 14-17 pp.150-189

Wed. 2/15 - A Country of Men - Chapters 18-24 pp. 190-246

### WEEK SEVEN

Mon. 2/20 - OWL - “Nomad and Viper” by Amos Oz pp. 77-90

Wed. 2/22 - Unit 1 Exam

### WEEK EIGHT

Mon. 2/27 - OWL - “Introduction to Asia” pp. 192-200

- “My Old Home” by Lu Xun pp. 201-208

Wed. 2/29 - OWL - “A Small Incident” by Lu Xun pp.209-211

- “When I Was in Xia Village” by Ding Ling pp. 211-226

### WEEK NINE

Mon. 3/5 - OWL - “The Return: by Ngugi wa Thiong’o pp. 91-96

- “Civil Peace” by Chinua Achebe pp. 128-133

Wed. 3/7 - OWL - “Prayer to Masks” by Leopold Sedar Senghor pp. 145-146

- “New York” by Leopold Sedar Senghor pp. 146-148